

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W
----- 102669

P R 121500Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3770

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRISSPRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR MR SS

SUBJECT: MAURITANIAN TROOPS MOVE TO SPANISH SAHARAN BORDER

REF: CAIRO 4561

1. AT 0500 MAY 12, COMMANDEERED DC-4 OF AIR MAURITANIE FLEW 50 ARMY TROOPS FROM NOUAKCHOTT TO REINFORCE MINIMAL PRESENCE ALONG SPANISH SAHARA-MAURITANIAN BORDER. AIRCRAFT, WHICH HAD NOT COMPLETED REQUIRED MAINTENANCE HERE, WAS PRESSED INTO EMERGENCY SERVICE WHEN GIRM OFFICIALLY INFORMED AHJ NMURITANIE THAT "THERE ARE TENSIONS ALONG THE FRONTIER (WITH SPANISH SAHARA)".

2. USUALLY COOPERATIVE SPANISH EMBOFF REFUSED TO DISCUSS SOURCE OF THESE BORDER "TENSIONS" WITH US. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS INFORMED AS TO REASON FOR TROOP AIRLIFT BUT IS NOT AT LIBERTY TO PASS ON INFO. SPANISH EMBOFF CONCLUDED, "PERHAPS I WILL BE ABLE TO TELL YOU
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SOMETHING IN A FEW DAYS."

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY SUGGESTS THREE POSSIBLE REASONS FOR
"EMERGENCY" DISPATCH OF TROOPS:

A. THERE WAS OR PRESENTLY IS A BORDER INCIDENT AND TROOPS
HAVE BEEN SENT TO SEAL BORDER AND/OR QUELL DISTURBANCE.

B. TO REINFORCE MAURITANIAN CLAIM TO SPANISH SAHARA IN
LIGHT OF ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT NEXT WEEK IN MOGADISCIO AND
REPORTED (REFTEL) ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
MOROCCAN CLAIM.

C. BY VISUAL PRESENCE, TO EMPHASIZE GIRM INTEREST IN
SPANISH SAHARA WHEN UN COMMITTEE OF 24, PRESENTLY IN SPANISH
SAHARA, VISITS BORDER AREA PERHAPS IN NEXT FEW DAYS
AND COMES TO MAURITANIA IN JUNE.

4. WE WELCOME ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/INTERPRETATION
ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY HAVE. HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 12 MAY 1975
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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To: STATE
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